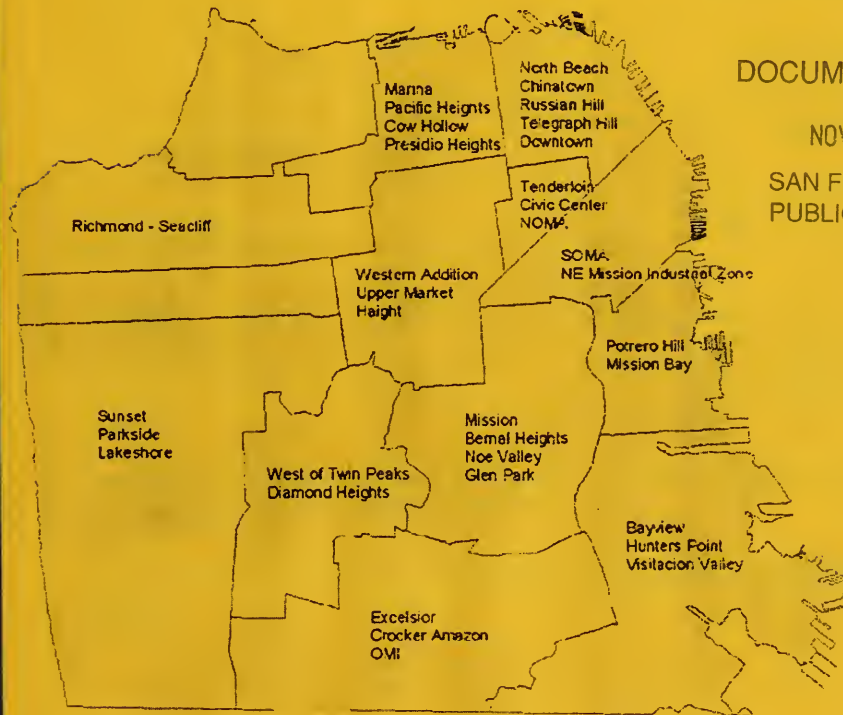




CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FALL 2000 HOMELESS COUNT REPORT NOVEMBER 3, 2000

Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the streets, there were 896 men, 289 women, 12 transgendered people and 836 genders unknown counted during this fall's Homeless Count for a total of 2,033 compared to a total of 1,805 in April. The total number of homeless people counted on the streets of San Francisco has increased 12.6%. This increase is in part because of better coverage by volunteers.

In the shelters, there were 1,219 men, 277 women, and 8 transgendered people staying in the adult shelters for a total of 1,504. These numbers represent a decrease of 16.7% over last year's count. **During the spring count, the winter shelters were still in operation.** Many of the adult shelters were over capacity on the night of the count.

In the family shelters, there were 67 men, 146 women, and 292 children on the night of the Homeless Count. This number includes families on the Connecting Point waiting list.

We also included women in crisis (Domestic Violence Shelters) for a total of 60; this includes 30 women and 30 children.

In the treatment programs, there were 389 men, 220 women and 7 transgendered people counted on the night of the Homeless Count. This represents an increase in the number of homeless people in treatment facilities.

An additional 138 men and women were in the County hospital and 520 men and women were in the County Jail.

Totaling all the numbers, the fall homeless count 2000 totals 5,376 people.

HOMELESS COUNT METHODOLOGY

Homeless people living in shelter

Approximately one month prior to the homeless count, the Mayor's Office on Homelessness mailed an advisory to all of the city's shelter providers, transitional programs, city departments and other organizations to advise them of the count. Over 400 individuals, agencies and organizations were invited to participate. Volunteers are informed of the date of the count and how the count will be conducted. Each shelter and transitional program is asked to tabulate the population of their program on the night of the count. The Mayor's Office on Homelessness then contacts each program on October 27th to obtain the total from the previous night.

Homeless people living on the street

The city is divided into the eleven geographic boundaries of the supervisory districts for the purpose of the count. The downtown areas are condensed enough to be thoroughly covered by volunteers on foot. Outlying neighborhoods, where few homeless people have been identified in the past, are covered by car. Even in these neighborhoods, volunteers are expected to leave their vehicles and conduct the count by foot in areas where there is a likelihood of finding homeless individuals. Volunteers are provided a map of the district to be covered thoroughly in their assigned area.

All teams utilize radios or cellular phones to facilitate communication during the count, to protect the safety of the volunteers, and to call for emergency assistance if needed. Volunteers also use two Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP) vans to facilitate transportation to and from the areas assigned to count.

Homeless people in jail or in county hospitals

San Francisco General Hospital provided the Mayor's Office on Homelessness a count of the number of homeless who were in the psychiatric emergency room, inpatient, the general emergency room and mental health rehabilitation beds. The Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice based the number of homeless and marginally housing people in jail on the data that approximately 40% of those booked are homeless or marginally housed. Also, it is estimated that 25% of the jail population is homeless or marginally housed.

The Volunteers

The Mayor's Office on Homelessness recruits volunteers who are neighborhood residents, community-based organizations, City employees, religious organizations, homeless and staff from the various city shelters. The study started at 9:30 p.m. in order to ensure that businesses or other places of temporary refuge are closed. Also the study was conducted based on other cities experiences and what time the emergency shelters close for intakes for the evening.

Volunteers were provided with the following instructions in order to complete their task:

Who do I count?

We understand that to define who is homeless and who is not by looking at them creates some unfortunate assumptions and no doubt, some inaccuracies. We do not mean to imply that all homeless people present in a similar way. However, there is no way around the problem of definition for this count.

Please count all people with: shopping carts or significant bags, bundles or suitcases, etc. People sleeping, laying or sitting on the sidewalk, street, plazas, parking lots, parts of the highway system should be counted. Severely disheveled or unkempt people should be counted. People who appear to be sex workers should be counted. Old cars, with shades drawn or clothes draped around the windows could have people in them. Please count 2 persons per car or vehicle, one male and one female. **DO NOT KNOCK ON THE VEHICLE.** If you are unsure, there is a place to check off 'unsure'. We are tracking sex, approximate age and ethnicity.

How do we count?

We will be reviewing the counting sheet before you leave tonight. You will be checking off boxes for homeless status, gender and ethnicity. For location, we'd like for you to jot down the general locations. Use cross streets or landmarks if helpful. Be brief. Be legible. Please sign the bottom of each sheet so that if questions come up, we can contact you or your organization for clarity.

What is left?

At least one individual from your group should return to 101 Grove Street when you are done with your area. We've set aside two hours for each group to count. Please contact us if it looks like you may need more time and we'll try and send another team for support. Once back at the base, we will collect and review your counting sheets and collect the any supplies you may have used for the count.

History and Purpose

The first count of San Francisco's homeless population on the street began on April 27, 2000. The Mayor's Office on Homelessness used for its guide "Practical Methods For Counting Homeless People" (The Urban Institute, 1996). The street count covered the entire city by either car or foot, with most of the walking teams located in the Tenderloin, South of Market, Haight and Castro. Over 40 teams were dispatched throughout the City. Over the summer, the Mayor's Office held a series of planning meetings with community volunteers to make recommendations on how to improve the homeless count.

The purpose of this count was to gather data to assist in both short term and long term planning for homeless services and policies in San Francisco. The demographics elements included gender, race and neighborhood location. Until the scope and nature of the problem of homelessness can be defined, government agencies are not adequately prepared to address important service delivery issues. Prior to conducting the first count in the spring, some estimates of the number of homeless on the street in San Francisco varied by as much as ten thousand people. With more accurate numbers, the City can coordinate, plan, organize services more effectively in order to help homeless people survive and eventually move beyond shelter to greater independent more productive lives.

THE POPULATION OF THE STREET

October 26, 2000

Street Count	Male	Female	Transgender	Children	Not sure
SUB TOTAL	896	289	12	0	836
GRAND TOTAL					2033

POPULATION OF THE STREET BY SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS

Districts	Men	Women	Not Sure	TransGen	Total
District 1	1		2		3
District 2	29	6	11		46
District 3	37	7	36		80
District 4			9		9
District 5	73	20	43		136
District 6	459	118	418	9	1004
District 7	9				9
District 8	68	19	23	3	113
District 9	109	2	94		205
District 10	101	116	195		412
District 11	6	1	2		9
unsure district ?	4		3		7
SUBTOTALS	896	289	836	12	
GRAND TOTAL					2033

Many homeless men and women who sleep on the street are mentally ill. Some mental illness, especially schizophrenia, causes a person to experience auditory hallucinations and acute paranoia. In many cases exacerbated by substance abuse, the person's condition has often deteriorated to the point where they are too paranoid to go into already overcrowded shelters and are resistant to the people who offer them help on the street.

To respond to these needs, daytime outreach teams in San Francisco's neighborhoods have been enhanced to include a first response team. The first response outreach provides an initial assessment of the person.

HOMELESS ADULTS IN SHELTER

	Male	Female	Transgender
A Women's Place	0	60	
A Man's Place	109	0	
Hospitality House	32	0	
Lark-Inn	25	11	
MSC North	203	121	8
MSC South	366	0	
Dolores Street	101	0	
Sanctuary	173	76	
Coordinated referral	96	1	
McMillan Drop-In	67	8	
South Beach	47	0	
SUB TOTAL	1219	277	8
GRAND TOTALS			1504

HOMELESS FAMILIES

October 26, 2000

	Male (adult)	Female (adult)	Children
St. Joseph's Village	8	14	39
Compass Family Center	14	20	28
Hamilton Family Center	7	10	24
Raphael House	1	10	15
Connecting Point waiting list	37	92	186
SUB TOTAL	67	146	292
GRAND TOTAL			505

WOMEN IN CRISIS

	Female (adult)	Children
Riley Center	6	5
Asian Women's Shelter	7	8
La Casa	17	17
SUB TOTAL	30	30
GRAND TOTAL		60

JAILS AND HOSPITALS

	Totals
SF County Jail	520
General Hospital	138
GRAND TOTAL	658

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH

AGENCY/PROGRAM	MALE	FEMALE	TRANS
Asian American Res. Recovery Svcs	9	7	0
Baker Places-Acceptance Place	11	0	0
Baker Places-4th Ave. House	4	2	0
Baker Places-Grove Street House	7	2	0
Baker Places - Baker St. House	8	6	1
Baker Places - 7th Street Program	14	2	1
CATS - Redwood Center	45	0	0
Cyrus Carter	15	2	0
Friendship House Assoc.	14	11	0
HAFC.-Smth House	0	14	0
Jelani	2	47	1
Latino Commission	8	0	0
Odyssey House	6	4	0
Ohlaff	35	9	0
Ozanam Center	50	9	1
Progress Foundation	21	28	1
Walden House	129	77	2
Western Addition Recovery House	11	0	0
Westside Lodge-Baker Places, Inc.	0	0	0
TOTAL	389	220	7
GRAND TOTAL			616

On behalf of the Mayor of our great city, we would like to acknowledge and express our sincere thanks to the many San Franciscan's that volunteered to make this fall count a success.

This event would have not been possible without the support of the many businesses in our San Francisco community. The following is a list of establishments that provided food, supplies and equipment.

Goodwill

Jitters and Shakes

Mr. Pizza Man

Noah's Bagels

Project Open Hand

Quincy's

Safeway at 16th and Potrero

Sparklett Water

Sprint PCS

Starbucks

Tommaso Restaurant

Many thanks and see you all next year!!!!

